



HIU Highlights Report No.1: March 1 – March 23, 2004

The HIU serves as an interagency nucleus to identify, collect, analyze, and disseminate unclassified information critical to USG preparation for and responses to humanitarian emergencies worldwide. This is our first highlights report for the steering committee.

The HIU will endeavor to issue future reports every two weeks to increase awareness of our efforts, promote greater interagency coordination, and avoid duplication of efforts. The report describes select initiatives underway critical to the institutionalization of HIU capabilities, collaboration efforts launched, key meetings held, upcoming items of interest, and provides a chart of specific products completed and under development. HIU contact numbers are listed on page five. The report will also be accessible in the coming months through a new HIU website. This report describes select initiatives underway, recent collaborations, key meetings, and upcoming items of interest. Your feedback is appreciated!

A. Status of Select Initiatives:

HIU ArcIMS Iraq Reconstruction Website: The HIU has been developing an interactive Arc/IMS GIS prototype website that will provide the CPA's Information Management Unit (IMU) improved analytical capabilities and display of data on reconstruction efforts in Iraq. HIU staffers continue troubleshooting efforts to resolve remaining programming issues affecting deployment. The site will be on the State Department's OpenNet system; issues affecting deployment, including those related to the State Department's firewall, have recently been largely resolved. A similar version of this website will be developed and used to store data collected under the HIU Countries of Humanitarian Interest Study described below. (POC: Tiffany Hall and Young Pyo)

HIU Countries of Humanitarian Interest Study: The HIU has developed five quantitative and five qualitative indicators for its Countries of Humanitarian Interest Study. Over the next six to twelve months, the HIU intends to coordinate and collect and organize the critical humanitarian-related data and variables on countries included in the study. The goal is to make current information and analysis available to decision-makers on a website. The next step is to vet and discuss the indicator criteria and ranked countries with various USG partners, researchers, and academics. (POC: Dennis King)

B. Collaboration Efforts Initiated:

Collaboration with the Global AIDS Coordinator's Office: HIU staff met with Kathy Marconi of the State Department's Global AIDS Coordinator's Office, John Novak of USAID's Bureau for Global Health, and Meade Morgan of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to exchange information on our respective programs and discuss areas of collaboration. The HIU agreed to provide best practices information for the field collection of GIS data, assess the quality of existing data and recommend improvements, and assist the Coordinator's office to develop the capability to create HIV/AIDS results-oriented GIS products for decision-makers. (POC: Kathleen Miner)

Collaboration with DCHA's Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) Office: HIU officers met with DCHA/CMM to discuss their request for the development of a GIS product depicting top conflict indicators in Nigeria. In response, the HIU has initiated a data mining effort to identify data and current maps on child mortality, ethnic and language breakdown by state, employment trends, and HIV/AIDS. In another session, HIU Chief Alan Davis and Victoria Jabara met with CMM Director Elisabeth Kvitashvili to exchange information on HIU and CMM operations. (POC: Victoria Jabara)

Collaboration with SouthCom on Haiti: The HIU has begun working with elements of SouthCom and OFDA to develop data collection forms to facilitate the gathering of field information in Haiti on logistics, vulnerable populations, and possible human rights violations. (POC: Doug Nash/Kathleen Miner)

Collaboration with CDC's International Emergency Refugee Health Branch (IERHB): HIU staff met with a visiting team from IERHB to exchange information on our respective programs and discuss areas of collaboration. The HIU also hosted a presentation by IERHB medical epidemiologist Reinhard Kaiser where he discussed his HIV/AIDS Southern Sudan study that is being partially funded by USAID.

C. Meetings and Presentations

Data Standardization Efforts for Iraq Reconstruction: HIU staff attended interagency working group sessions with colleagues from USAID, NGA, and DOD to coordinate standardization efforts. Several USG data systems are operating in Baghdad, such as those in DoD's Project Management Office (PMO) and the Information Management Unit (IMU) within the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). Given the upcoming June 30 transition and opening of a U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, further improvements in data standardization and a continuation of the information management function are important for decision-makers over the medium term. A new interagency policy group, composed of senior representatives from the State Department, NGA, USAID, DoD/NII, and other stakeholders, will meet to discuss these issues. (POC: Alan Davis)

Pentagon Courtesy Call: Alan Davis and Col. Doug Nash met with HIU Steering Committee member Joseph Collins, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Stability Operations Branch within the Office for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict. Various HIU initiatives

were discussed including the April 14th Civil Affairs Information Management Workshop (CAIMW) geared towards assisting the Civil Affairs community craft an information management transformation strategy to improve collecting, storage, retrieving, and processing humanitarian and reconstruction-related data. HIU representatives also participated in the Pentagon's monthly Civil Affairs Joint/Interagency Roundtable. Topics discussed included the new Civil Affairs staff officer course implemented by the Joint Special Operations University at Hurlburt Field in Florida; the Secretary of Defense initiative to transfer Civil Affairs from Special Operations to the Conventional Army; and the CAIMW. (POC: Doug Nash)

National Defense University (NDU) Panel Discussions: Col. Doug Nash participated in a panel discussion on Operation Iraqi Freedom post-conflict lessons learned hosted by NDU Professor Mike Baranick. The activities of the various Civil Affairs planning elements at the theater combatant command level (i.e. CENTCOM) and the role they played were discussed to identify weaknesses and impact on civil administration immediately following the war. Kathleen Miner participated in another NDU panel discussion on cooperation between NGOs and the U.S. Armed Forces during post-conflict operations and complex humanitarian emergencies.

Presentation to Joint Forces Command: Col. Nash gave an HIU presentation to Rear Admiral Richard J. O'Hanlon, Commander of the Standing Joint Force Headquarters. This organization focuses on planning, operations, information management and superiority, and can form rapidly deployable Joint Task Force Command Structures such as what has recently been done in Haiti. HIU emphasized the need to incorporate information management of humanitarian-related data and information in the headquarters structure of such a unit, particularly if involved in Stability and Support Operations/Military Operations Other Than War. (POC: Doug Nash)

Presentation to DCHA Senior Staff: On March 23, the HIU provided DCHA Deputy Assistant Administrator G. Garrett Grigsby with a briefing on HIU capabilities and initiatives as well as a tour of our facilities in State Annex Building No. 44 where he met the entire HIU team. DAA Grigsby announced that he will be replacing William Garvelink on the HIU Steering Committee. (POC: Alan Davis)

D. Other Items of Interest

Humanitarian Aid Workers Paper: Dennis King of the HIU wrote a white paper entitled "The Year of Living Dangerously: Attacks on Humanitarian Aid Workers in 2003" using data on killings of aid workers since 1997. The paper, discussed at the March 10th National Security Council interagency meeting, describes USG measures to improve security for these workers and will be posted on the State Department website during the week of March 29th.

Groove Collaboration Tool: HIU participated in a Department of State/Iraq Transition Team session on the installation and use of Groove for interactive collaboration and communication between Washington and the CPA/Baghdad. Groove, a tool that has proved effective for communications from remote areas, has prepared three proposal options for acquisition of

licenses and management and relay server hardware and software. The HIU will receive 50 Groove licenses from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. HIU staffer Young Pyo attended another Groove rollout session on March 23 organized by the State Department's Iraq Transition Team. (POC: Dennis King)

New HIU staff: Alan Davis joined the HIU as its new chief on March 1st. Davis is a career foreign service officer with 25 years of USAID service. David Springer, a geospatial intelligence analyst from the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA), began a detail in the HIU on March 8th.

UN Award: Dennis King attended the presentation in New York of the UN 21 Award for Best Knowledge Management Initiative for the ReliefWeb Project, given by Secretary General Kofi Annan. Dennis was one of the original members of the UN's ReliefWeb Project Team and also served as the second Project Manager prior to joining the HIU.

A. Upcoming Items:

Dennis King initiated work on creating a map showing affected populations and humanitarian impact of conflict during 2003 in Sudan for the Department of State Report to Congress on the Sudan Peace Act.

The HIU Chief will receive a briefing by USAID officials on the Millennium Challenge Account on March 24th.

Dennis King will make a presentation on new ways of visualizing humanitarian information at the March 27 Conference of the Global Disaster Information Network.

An internal HIU short-term product and long-term initiatives tracking system will be operational by end-March. The system will enhance prioritization and time management efforts underway.

Upcoming HIU presentations (POC: Dennis King):

a) State/INR/EX and IRM personnel (March 25)

Upcoming Workshops organized or assisted by the HIU:

a) March 31: Joint Forces Command/State Department sponsored workshop in Vienna, VA on the application of the Joint Interagency Coordination Group's pre-conflict management tool for South Asian complex humanitarian emergencies (POC: Doug Nash)

b) April 14: Civil Affairs Info Management Workshop in Roslyn sponsored by ASD SOLIC and hosted by the HIU. See description on page two (POC: Doug Nash); and

c) May 13-14: Systematic Population Estimation Workshop: Focuses on USG needs for estimating the populations of areas in countries where census data are outdated, unreliable, or non-existent. Proper estimates are necessary to inform a host of foreign affairs issues including humanitarian assistance, economic development, human rights, elections,

international public health, military operations, natural resource management, and many more. (POC: Noam Unger)

HIU GIS Graphic Products (Ad Hoc Request Status)

Products completed since 03/01/04	Description:	POC:
Afghanistan School Rehabilitation/Construction Status Map	Produced for USAID's Asia Near East (ANE) Bureau	Unger
Estimated 2004 World Food Shortages Map	Product for Secretary Powell; uses United Nations (FAO and WFP) data on food shortage estimates.	Unger
OHDACA-funded Humanitarian and Reconstruction Projects in Afghanistan	Products for DoD Stability Ops that will also be part of Secretary Powell's briefing folio in preparation for his trip to the Berlin donors' conference at the end of March.	Nash

Products under development	Description:	
Map Series for 2004 Sudan Peace Act Report	Products for this year's congressionally mandated Sudan Peace Act Report	Unger
Nigeria Conflict Indicators Map Series	Products for USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (DCHA/CMM)	Jabara
HIV/AIDS and Refugees in East Africa	Products for Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) as well other HIV/AIDS project partners: the Global AIDS Coordinator (S/GAC), and HHS.	Unger & Miner

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